

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL GUIDELINES

Historic district residents and property owners may obtain administrative approval from Historic Preservation Commission staff for selected building projects. The Chief of Historic Presentation and/or the Historic Preservation Commission's architectural consultant will review the application for an administrative Certificate of Approval and issue an Administrative Certificate of Approval prior to approving a building permit. Historic Preservation staff will base approval on the Historic Preservation Commission's guidelines, ***Building Towards the Fourth Century: The Annapolis Historic District Design Manual***, ***The Secretary of the Interior's Standards***, and the guidelines listed below.

The following is an explanation of procedures and projects eligible for the **Administrative Certificate of Approval**.

I. General Policies, Conditions and Procedures

A. Policies and Conditions

1. Administrative approval for the items included herein is authorized by the Historic Preservation Commission (Commission) provided that the Historic Preservation staff includes a full-time, qualified historic preservation planner and National Park Service 36CFR certified architectural consultant.
2. Administrative approval authority will be reviewed and renewed annually from the date of adoption (August 1995); however, changes may be made on an as needed basis at any public hearing of the Commission.
3. The Historic Preservation Commission will review all staff administrative approvals at a public hearing.
4. The applicant has the right to "appeal" denial of administrative approval by staff and file an application, except in the case of zoning non-compliance.

B. Procedures

1. The applicant will file for administrative approval using an application for Administrative Certificate of Approval.

2. Historic Preservation staff will provide the Commission with a quarterly report of administrative approvals.
3. Staff has the option to refer a request for administrative approval to the Commission if uncertainty exists as to whether the application meets the criteria for issuing a Certificate of Approval.

II. Categories of Administrative Approval

A. *Replacement-in-kind*

1. “Replacement-in-kind” means a process of rehabilitation utilized only where materials are extensively deteriorated or damaged and cannot be repaired. Deteriorated materials or features are repaired with the same materials. This process is based on physical evidence of essential form and detailing of historic materials or features.
2. The request will be reviewed by the Chief of Historic Preservation and the Architectural Consultant. If repair is not possible, existing material or component must be documented prior to proceeding with replacement-in-kind.

B. *Restoration and Renovation Projects*

1. Removal of asbestos, asphalt, aluminum, or other synthetic siding to expose and repair underlying/original siding.
Review by Architectural Consultant and Chief of Historic Preservation after siding has been removed; condition investigated and restoration determined.
2. Repointing and other masonry repairs
 - a. Review by Architectural Consultant and Chief of Historic Preservation
 - b. Any repointing and brick/stone repair must match existing/original
3. Storm doors, storm windows
 - a. Frames: wood, baked white aluminum, or match existing color of window frames or sash
 - b. Glazing: no dividers, or match existing rails
4. Door replacement
 - a. Non-contributing
 - b. Restoration for historic property based on the following: photographic evidence and appropriate restoration for period building

5. Shutters
 - a. Replacement-in-kind with documentation (photos or *in situ*)
 - b. Replacement when physical evidence indicates historical installation; i.e., hinges. Type would be based on research, period of house
 - c. Appropriate replacement for non-contributing property
6. Street furniture
 - a. Pre-approved benches, street lamps found in addendum to design guidelines
 - b. Planters: simulated terra cotta or as specified in design guidelines
7. Utilities
 - a. Includes electric and gas meters, cable boxes, service meters and wiring
 - b. Not on principal facade
8. Roof drainage systems and snow guards
9. Electronic security devices such as cameras, touch key plates and control panels
10. Porch stairs and railings with the condition that the railing design corresponds with existing porch railing

C. *Signs*

1. Must comply with zoning requirements
2. Replacement-in-kind, with the exception of neon
3. Use of existing signboard or exact replica with the following conditions:
 - a. Signboard is appropriate to building
 - b. Pre-approved typeface is used
 - c. Lettering is professionally executed in paint, stencil, wood or metal on studs.
 - d. Lettering is in proportion to sign area.
4. Signs with corporate logos must be referred to the Commission.

D. *Minor changes to environmental settings*

1. Fences
 - a. In kind replacement of existing fences or minor alterations to same which do not significantly change the original appearance or the material used, with the exception of stockade fences.

- b. Replacement of existing fence, different type or style, in the same location, provided the fence does not exceed 48 inches.
 - c. Front yard fences to be no higher than 42", no farther forward than the rear corners of the building, with minimum 1/4" spacing between vertical members, must not obscure character defining features
 - d. Space between vertical members, minimum 1/4", maximum 1-1/2".
- 2. Gates
 - a. Non-contributing property
 - b. Same style as previously approved existing fencing
 - c. Alley or passage gates between buildings and over six feet with following conditions: replacement-in-kind and compatible with adjacent building types, existing types on streetscape, appropriate based on available evidence
- 3. The construction or replacement of brick, stone, concrete or gravel driveways, parking areas, patios, driveways or other paved areas which are not readily visible from a public right-of-way and are compatible in material, location and design with the visual character of the Historic District; also minor repairs to the above which do not significantly change their appearance or the material used.
- 4. Pre-approved brick paving patterns as illustrated in the Historic Preservation Commission's design guidelines.
- 5. Minor landscape features including planters and plant material changes in existing planters.
- 6. Tree removal
 - a. Diseased trees, certified by independent arborist (not tree removal company)
 - b. Trees immediately adjacent to buildings or walls that are undermining foundations or threaten roofs.

These guidelines were adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission on August 23, 1995;
revised November 24, 1998 and November 30, 2000.